

AUG 25 1994



**Research  
Foundation, Inc.**

FORMED TO COMBAT VZV, THE VIRUS RESPONSIBLE FOR CHICKENPOX, SHINGLES, AND POST-HERPETIC NEURALGIA.

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**August 18, 1994**

**Dr. Joshua S. Lederberg**  
**Professor**  
**Rockefeller University**  
**1230 York Avenue**  
**New York, New York 10021**

**Dear Josh,**

Several years ago my mother, then 82, was afflicted by shingles and later painful post-herpetic neuralgia. I was so appalled by her agony that I decided to form a foundation to combat this miserable disease. Columbia-Presbyterian's Dr. Anne A. Gershon not only agreed to be our medical advisor, but enlisted the enthusiastic support of other VZV specialists to form our Scientific Advisory Board.

Enclosed is a packet of background information describing our activities since our formation in 1991. On July 7-8, we sponsored The Second International Conference on VZV infection at Les Palais Des Congres in Paris. Nearly 300 research scientists and practicing physicians discussed VZV epidemiology and immunology, promising new anti virals and new developments in the treatment of post-herpetic neuralgia pain (PHN).

In Paris, I was able to announce that a second \$100,000 grant from the Starr Foundation enabled us to conduct our second post-doctoral fellowship competition this coming October. Our first competition is described on pages 2 and 6 of our 1993 annual report.

While our 1993 shingles workshop (which we and the NIH sponsored jointly) was a great success, NIH funding for diseases such as VZV infection is minimal. This is not wholly unfair in that they are trying to cope with fatal illnesses (AIDS, TB, etc.). However, we remain hopeful that over the next few years we can stimulate more NIH interest in our cause.

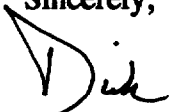
Dr. Joshua S. Lederberg  
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We estimate that every year up to 850,000 Americans contract shingles and as many as a quarter of these will suffer the excruciating pain of post-herpetic neuralgia. Clearly the private sector must provide the support necessary to investigate and ultimately eliminate this miserable disease not only in this country but around the world.

I would very much like to approach both the Revson and The Norman and Rosita Winston foundations for support. If you feel that they might be willing to help us, I would like to discuss it further with you -- over lunch if possible.

In any case, I wish you a happy 'rest of the summer' in California or wherever you might be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dick', with a stylized flourish extending from the bottom.

Richard T. Perkin

cc: Dr. Anne A. Gershon  
Enc: Folder/Annual Report/Brochure

RTP/sg